

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Amend Paragraph 0053 of the published application as follows:

As illustrated in FIGS. 7-9, an endoscope insertion member or shaft 130 is formed along an outer surface 132 with a longitudinal channel 138 having a pair of edges 134 and 136 defining a longitudinal slot 140. An elongate closure member 142 made, for instance, of a thermoplastic resin material, is slidably engaged with insertion member 130 along edges 134 and 136 to cover or close slot 140 during at least a portion of an endoscopic investigation. Insertion shaft 130 has a smooth cylindrical outer surface (not separately designated), while closure member 142 is transversely arcuate and has an outer surface (not separately designated) that is smoothly continuous with the outer surface of insertion member of shaft 130. Closure member 142 is separate from and independent of any catheter inserted through channel 138